Proposed Fire Training Center

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Current Fire Training Program

Fire Training Center FAQ's

The need to relocate the Fire Training Center (FTC) from the current site on Lee Hill Road was identified in the 1996 Fire Department master plan. Since its beginning in 1974 annexations and development in the area have brought businesses and homes to within 100 feet of the FTC grounds.

In 2000 the Boulder Regional Fire Training Center Board, a group of County Fire Chiefs organized to oversee the operation of the fire training center, approached the Boulder County Commissioners requesting a temporary County-wide sales tax to supplement funding the construction of three FTC’s in Boulder County. The proposed facilities located in Boulder, Longmont and the mountains of Boulder County would provide regional training without unnecessary duplication.

The Commissioners approved a revised request and in 2001 county voters approved a temporary three year sales tax projected to collect $6,499,380. The projected share for the Boulder FTC was $4,631,277. The three years the tax was in place the economy experienced a significant decline. The final tax amount collected was $5,412,946 with Boulder’s share totaling $3,700,000. Interest on this fund has accumulated about $75,000 making a total contribution available from the County $3,775,000.

Longmont has broken ground for their FTC. The mountain fire protection districts are working to determine how they will arrange that facility. Boulder has selected a location for the FTC to serve the fire departments in the central part of the

County. The proposed Boulder FTC site called the Wells site and is located on property owned by the City of Boulder Water Utilities Department. It is north of the Diagonal Highway, west of 63rd Street below the south dam of Boulder Reservoir.

Educational/Administrative Building:

The educational/administration building will contain the essential components for administration, support and delivery of training. The building will be a two-story structure with attached bays for storage and placement of apparatus during adverse weather periods. The educational/administration building is divided into office space, educational, support and garage/storage areas. The building will house the training divisions of the various county fire departments. Additional office space will be maintained for use by other training coordinators within the county such as emergency medical service, hazardous materials and specialized rescue.

The educational areas include one 100-seat main auditorium, with vehicle access for training and presentation purposes. There will be four smaller classrooms capable of seating 25-30 students per room. One room would be a designated computer lab with individual workstations and another designed for incident simulations. A library, with audiovisual, professional literature and computer access to Internet and databases will be in this area. The center will provide a possible public meeting place.

Support areas include rest room/locker facilities, kitchen and dormitory areas. Other services in the support area include an audiovisual center for storage, operation, and development of training aids.

The garage/storage areas will be attached to the main building and permit apparatus (up to 4) to park inside during winter months. The bays will be drive- through to reduce the potential for backing accidents. The garage area will also provide storage for additional apparatus and or equipment.

Driving Course:

The driving course will be a concrete pad capable of supporting fire apparatus weights under significant driving conditions. The pad can be used as a parking area for the facility. The course will be capable of providing a driver training to other city and county departments. Potential departments who would benefit from this are fire, ambulance, and rescue services. Presently there is not a driving course for fire apparatus anywhere in the metro area.

Extrication Pads (2)

Extrication pads are concrete pads large enough to hold a vehicle and extrication equipment. The pad permits any vehicle fluids to leak onto the pad for proper disposal. Secondly, the pad allows fire personnel to set up extrication equipment on a clean safe surface. One component of this area is that all extrication pads shall have an underlining that acts as a barrier to prevent environment contamination.

Propane/Natural Gas Props

The combustible gas area will be a multifunctional area. The area will be a contained gas-fired burner with a metal over lay. The system will utilize a water/gas mixture to simulate flammable spill fires as found in bulk storage plants and without the environmental concerns. Other props in the combustible gas area include a gas supplied automobile fire simulator, tank and tree. These props allow training on various operations involving propane tanks and valves. The automobile permits car fire training without having to obtain actual vehicles. The advantage is that environmental

concerns are reduced with gas powered systems while still permitting training in these critical areas.

Pump Pit

The pump pit is a site that allows apparatus to conduct drafting operations, and pump testing. The pump pit will permit easy access for apparatus, reduce trip hazards, and prevent contamination from surrounding surface water runoff. The tank must be large enough to permit the largest capacity pumper in the County to use the pit.

Burn Building

The burn building will be metal with combustible resistive linings. The structure will be a two-story with a half basement. The building will permit firefighting operations to occur and simulate, fire attack, ventilation, search & rescue, forcible entry, laddering, overhaul, salvage, and utility control. The burn building will utilize wood burning materials most likely pallets or excelsior.

Tower

The tower will be a five-story structure with vestibule, smoke tower and fixed fire protection systems. The tower will permit departments to perform high-rise operations, use aerial ladders, practice rappelling, and fire ground operations in high-rise occupancies.

Pavilion

The pavilion is the control center for the training grounds. This structure would be one-story with an observation area on the roof. The observation area will be a vantage point to watch over the entire area when multiple agencies are on the training grounds. The pavilion would also house restrooms, an air compressor for bottle refilling, and a fire extinguisher refilling station.